



The Friends of Thringstone



'Working together to improve our village'

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BULLETIN FOR JANUARY 2023

News.

Monthly litter pick total – 127 bags removed by 7 people against **104 bags** for the same month last year. In 2022 we removed 1525 bags of litter from the village and woodland.

Next meeting – 5 January in house lounge at Charles Booth Centre.

Gas leaks – if you smell gas in the street or in your house, the number to ring is 0800 111 999, not British Gas or the fire brigade. If you are reporting a smell of gas in a street near a house which isn't yours, don't think it is nothing to do with you or that someone else will do it. be aware that the person on the phone will ask you for both a house number and a postal code.

Carols on 16 Dec – Thank you to the 20 odd people who turned out in below zero temperatures to sing carols from St Andrew's up to the centre and outside there. Thanks also to the people who went straight into the centre to enjoy the entertainment from the U3A choir. It is never easy to organise events in the winter, and it was nice that so many braved the conditions to come out. The centre had had a similar issue with numbers at their **Santa Fun Run** the previous weekend.

Bull's Head – various donated items and food were sent to Help The Homeless in Leicester just prior to Christmas by the pub. They would like to thank customers for their contributions.

Warm Hub at centre – The next warm hub at the centre is 5 Jan. The centre reopens on 3 Jan.

Girls' football starts on Melrose Rd playing field on Saturdays from 14 Jan from 10-11am. Girls only for school years 3-6.

Former Methodist Chapel – Planning applications have gone into NWLDC to provide 13 new parking spaces and new vehicular access to the chapel on behalf of the Gospel Hall Trust who now own the building. It is proposed to provide a new vehicular access set back 5m into the site, and use the area of grass down the front for parking, with an electrical charge point available. Plans show the new access will have a bespoke archway and wall with swing gates and intercom facilities. All details are available on the NWLDC planning site.

David White – We are sorry to report that David White, well known locally for his slide shows and, to those who are older, for having kept the shop on the corner of Whitwick Moor, passed away between Christmas and the New Year. David had been a stalwart of our group and of the Methodist chapel in Thringstone and will be sorely missed by everybody who knew him.

Notes of meeting on 8 Dec. These have already been sent to members on email, but are included here for the benefit of those who have paper copies only. 4 people were present with one apology.

Bernard's tree – Bill will plant something substantial in February time.

People's Zone - Nita talked about the proposed Whitwick and Thringstone People Zone meeting she had had the previous day with Louise from Mapping For Change, and that she had sent some notes around to the committee on the issues discussed. These are available to other members



upon request. The meeting felt that there is a lack of motivation on this issue at the moment, and Bill suggested that there was a missing generation of volunteers now, which Nita felt had been exacerbated by covid – since the lockdown people have been more concerned with their own families and the recent cost of living crisis had focussed people’s attentions even more on their own lives, rather than looking outwards to help others. Younger people now communicate more via social media or online outlets than in the past, and despite everything that the group wants to achieve, it is doubtful that it will be as successful as the organisers would hope.

Carols at the Priory was very successful, and a small profit will have likely been made after expenses are recouped.

Cards - Nita has sent Christmas cards to those the group usually contact at this time of year.

Thringstone Miners’ social centre – Nita said she understood that Leon Spence had resigned as chair, and that Nigel Roberts was now chair.

Centre – There was general discussion regarding what is on at the centre, how things are promoted on social media which 3 of the 4 at the meeting don’t use, and how to get more people to come along to events. Tracy said that the film night only produced a small number of people, and the quiz nights have been cancelled until at least January. The Warm Hub is seeing mostly the same people each time. Finding a replacement for Carole Cox was mentioned. Having someone from the centre come to a meeting in the future was briefly discussed.

Gardening – Mike and Anne have done a winter clear up and things are now in a good state for 2023.

Chairs Report

Emails received/sent: Various from people with whom we regularly share information. Various fly tipping reported, as usual.

Promotion: We have **738 twitter followers**, which is 10 more than last month, and **1,940 facebook followers**, which is 11 more than last month.

Other: Reported smell of gas on Dalkeith Walk which saw the pavement being dug up, and hole in the pavement by 22 The Green (Queen’s Head). Wrote the bauble for Community Voice for Feb’s edition

We were notified by his son on 18 Dec that **Jim Booth**, the remaining grandson of Charles and Mary Booth, had died peacefully that morning aged 101. Jim was a WW2 veteran and had been to Thringstone to meet with us on several occasions.

What’s On

6 and 7 Jan – **Thringstone Members Club** – Ace Community Theatre presents murder mystery – The Sound of Murder. Tickets £8 to include high tea. Book online via www.ticketsource.co.uk/ace

26 Jan – Park Hall, Whitwick – meeting at 7pm to discuss **flooding in the area** and meet with organisations involved.

21-28 Jan – **TPADS production** of Pinocchio at Charles Booth Centre. Tickets £10 for adults and £8 for children other than 26 Jan when all tickets are £7.

Finance Report

Janet sold VT 1,2,3, Mem 1,2,3,4 and Born and Bred 1,2 and 3 to a lady in Wales.

Gen Fund held 1st of month (bank + petty cash + float)	2659.75		
Income		Expenditure	
Publication plus p&p	34.25	Broadband	20.00
		P&P for publications	3.35
		New litter pick sticks	108.52
total income to			



general fund

Total general fund at month end	

Web Report

The webmaster is continuing to work on updates.

Incident Report

- Nita completed a rural crime survey for Neighbourhood Watch about the graffiti that sprang up in the village some time back, and how the cattle arch and viaduct in the woodland are covered in graffiti, which is a heritage crime. These structures had stood for a century or more unharmed until recently.
- Seat Leon car broken down outside Co-op on 18-19 Dec was hit by another car which drove off.

History report

- Someone posted a picture of **the Co-op shop on The Green** on facebook on 14 Dec along with a photo of the shop just before it closed. This prompted a lot of memories being posted by several people. Many remembered Alan Lucas and Lucas Mart, especially his Friday deliveries and also that he used to dress up as Santa and give out small presents to children at Christmas. A lady called Sue whose mother was Sylvia Fudger posted details of her mother's employment at what was then the Co-op in the 50s and 60s. She said the under manager there was Eric Lowe, and the manager Mr Hicken. Apparently Eric Lowe was married to Gladys and was a very smart man. She remembers the lard and sugar coming in to the shop in sacks and blocks and then having to be weighed out into half pound and pound sizes for customers. On Monday, her mother used to bike round to farms and outlying places, including Osgathorpe, to collect shopping orders for delivery the following week, and pick up money from previous orders.
- Nita got a copy of the **Alehouses Recognizance Books** from 1753-1827 for Thringstone. These are the earliest records held, and give the names of innkeepers, the place of the house and the names and addresses of either one or two people to stand surety, generally for the sum £10 each. Many people who stood surety were beerhouse keepers themselves but by no means all of them. In the last volume for the years 1822-1824, the trade of the surety is given. Before signage came in and alehouses had to put a sign outside in 1825, the names of the premises weren't listed. Before 1830 there was a tax on beer which in those days was safer to drink than water. Because of widespread drunkenness through drinking gin, the government introduced the Beerhouse Act of 1830, which among other things abolished the beer tax making beer cheaper and a safer alternative to gin. Beerhouses only sold beer which could be brewed by anyone. They were allowed to be open from 4 o'clock in the morning until 10pm at night, and all the beerhouse keeper had to do was obtain an excise licence at a cost of 2-3 guineas (a guinea was £1 and 1 shilling). The beerhouse could also provide food and lodging. An Act of 1869 brought the licensing back under the control of the justices. Many beerhouses then closed or were bought by breweries and changed to licenced public houses. As far as Thringstone goes, there are 705 listings from 1753-1819, and 63 for the period up from 1820-27, but you have to remember that Thringstone Parish also included parts of Swannington and other outlying areas. **William Merriman of the Bull's Head** is listed several times, as is **John Gregory** (from last month) relating to the Rose and Crown. Their sureties vary a lot, and John Gregory was also surety for others, reinforcing the statement above, as does the mention of someone we know to have been at the George and Dragon standing surety for William Merriman of the Bull's Head who died in 1819.
- **Rose and Crown** - There is an Ann Averde (as mentioned last month) having an inn in Thringstone in 1753. We know that the Averde family had property on The Green, and feel that this inn was the Rose and Crown, as it fits in with other information we have on the family and the area generally. Her surety was Joseph Burgess of Swannington. She died in 1757 and we have a copy of her will in which she leaves all her property to her son William Averde.
- **George and Dragon** - Looking through these registers, we see that **William Lacey/Lacer King** was landlord from 1781, and that he also acted as surety for others in 1787 and 1788. William died aged



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81 in November 1825 and was buried at St John's in Whitwick, meaning he was born in 1744. In his will dated 1822 he left his victualler's business to his wife Winifred King who was there from 1825-27. There is a William King marrying a Winifred Castledine in Kirby Bellars nr. Melton Mowbray on 26 Nov 1776. William is listed as being of Syston which ties in with two poll tax books for 1775 where he is said to have been the owner of land in Syston and with a baptism in Syston of William Lacer King in 1746. This may be a different person, of course. James King, also mentioned in William's will. He was the son of William and Winifred, and was at the pub from 1830 until around 1836. He was baptised at St John's in Whitwick in May 1780, married Ann Varley of Whitwick on 15 April 1828 and was also a farmer. Upon the death of James King, Ann seems to have married Thomas Toone at Whitwick on 24 May 1837 with whom her son William L King is shown on the 1851 census. Thomas Toone was listed as being at the pub from 1844-61 which is when Ann died. Ann and James's son William Lacey King then took over, and was at the pub from 1862-70. He was baptised at Griffydham in 1835. This means that the pub was in the same family for nearly 100 years.

- **Bull's Head** - We'd thought that William Merriman had been at the Bull's Head from 1799, but these new registers show that he went there in 1782. Hannah Merriman took over in 1821 not 1827 as previously thought.
- **The Fox** – Some years back, we discovered the death notice for **Thomas Stinson** saying he had been landlord of The Fox, Thringstone, and died on 27 Dec 1821 aged 72 years. He was buried at St John's in Whitwick on 30 December. Research has shown that he was born in Breedon in 1749 and was a publican in Thringstone from 1806, presumably at The Fox, which does seem to be there on the 1807 enclosure map of the village, and behind it was Fox Field. Prior to moving to Thringstone, Thomas lived in Worthington, where his family were baptised and from where in 1793 he acted as surety for other licensees. He also acted for others in 1800 when his address was Coleorton. Thomas had two sons, Thomas and William, and it is thought that his son Thomas kept the Queen's Head in Coleorton in 1830 having possibly kept The Bluebell in Coleorton in 1813. Thomas Snr's will was executed by John Potter, grocer of Whitwick, and names his wife Sarah, daughter Amy, wife of Wm Ball of Loughborough, auctioneer, and daughter Ruth, wife of James Wardle, framework knitter of Worthington (actually Gelsmoor). The will stipulates that Sarah Stinson must not take over the business at The Fox, and we are unable to say who did take over for the next 2 years. We have also been looking at **Thomas Bowley Hull** who is mentioned briefly in our pubs book. Thomas seems to have married Ann in Woodhouse in 1808, been at the pub from 1824, but went bankrupt in 1830, at which time he said he was a victualler and carpenter. He was in Swannington as a carpenter in 1839 then went off to Canada where he was also an innkeeper, according to the Brantford 1851 census information. We believe he died in 1861.
- **William Storer** – We discovered an obituary for William Storer, of the **Rose and Crown**, Thringstone, from August 1834, aged 32. This was new information. Further research has shown that he was actually 34 years of age, died on 13 August 1834, and left money to both his wife and to his father, also called William Storer. He was buried at St John's in Whitwick, and we have downloaded his will from which we learnt that he was married to Elizabeth nee Gregory. The pub was in her family for years, as her father, John Gregory kept the pub from 1809 until at least 1827. Elizabeth went on to marry Thomas Kidger Ayre, who also kept the Rose and Crown, on 11 August 1835. With Thomas Kidger Ayre, Elizabeth kept the pub from 1837 until around 1857. She went on, after the death of Thomas Kidger Ayre, to marry Thomas Truelove Kendrick who built what is now the Chapel Fitness Centre. Elizabeth was also the sister of Robert Gregory about whom we have written a lot before.
- In 1894, the government brought in the **Local Government Act**, also sometimes known as the Parish Council's bill. This allowed the election of urban and rural district councils and the formation of parish councils in rural areas, plus reform of the boards of guardians of poor law unions (workhouses). It also allowed women who owned property the right to vote in local elections, become poor law guardians and act on school boards for the first time. Thringstone had a parish council until the early 1930s, and the earliest record we can find of their monthly meetings is May 1895, with their chairman being S W Hallam of the Queen's Head. Thringstone also became part of



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Ashby Urban District Council area when it was formed in 1894, the same year that Coalville UDC was formed. We remained part of Ashby UDC until around 1935 when we became part of Coalville UDC. That was dissolved in 1974 and replaced by NWLDC.

- Continuing from November bulletin re. The Walton family of Thringstone

Clara Walton died in April 1910, the same year that her father George was remarried to widow Lizzie Smith, who moved in to the family home with her 3 children. She had previously lived somewhere near The Gables on Main Street. In 1911, the only child of Charlotte and George Walton living at home was Edward. **Effie** and her sister **Sarah Jane** were patients at the **convalescent home** for girls with breathing issues, run by **Mary Booth** at Cross Lanes, Thringstone.

In 1911, **George Walton** was taken to court by George Frederick Burton, a Whitwick grocer, for £13 4 shillings and 8 pence owed. It was stated that George and his late wife Charlotte had kept a shop, and had goods to the value for which Mr Burton was not reimbursed. A further trial in 1913 suggested that this was not the case, money had been paid, and a new trial was considered.

By 1921, George and his wife Lizzie were living at 66 Hermitage Road, Whitwick, with her daughter Florence and a nephew. George was an out of work collier from Whitwick colliery. By 1939, he was an incapacitated former miner, living at 141 Hall Lane, Whitwick with wife Lizzie and her son Ernest and his wife Alice and their son, also called Ernest Smith. George Edward Walton died aged 62 years in 1941.

Effie Walton left Thringstone, moved to Leicester and married Leslie Clarence Towers, at St Mary Magdalene - Knighton Parish Church, 26 Nov 1921. The couple lived at 47 Draper Street, Knighton from at least 1923 to 1925, moved to Gorse Lane, Oadby in 1925, in 1926 to Highcroft Road, Oadby until 1929, then to 17 Queen Street, Oadby in 1930. Leslie had been a member of the committee of the 58th (Oadby) Leicestershire group of boy scouts, had 3 children, and both his sons were scouts. He was also a member of the Oadby Working Men's Club. Leslie was a gardener, and died 14 Sept 1938 aged 37 at LRI after a **collision with a car** whilst cycling on an errand for his employer, Mr C R Lisle, a director of British United Shoe Machinery Co. The inquest heard that he was on London Road in Leicester, and overtaking two female cyclists when he was hit by a van being driven by Bernard Harby Cunniffe coming the other way, which in turn was overtaking a tram car, which was dropping off passengers. All three cyclists were taken to hospital, with one of the ladies involved losing teeth and having a cut face. Leslie died a result of injuries to his spine. Effie was with him when he died. She said at the inquest that he knew she was there, had asked her to lift him up and told her 'they smashed me up'. £50 insurance was paid by the Leicester Evening Mail Free Insurance to Effie who had been insured through the paper's insurance scheme. In another insurance settlement, which went to court, Effie received £450, and there was a payment of £100 for the boy of 14 (Leslie), £125 for the boy of 12 (John) and £175 for the girl of 9 (Betty). The judge said his sympathy was always for the widow in such cases, as the children would grow up and earn their own living. In 1939, the family were in the paper again as Leslie, aged 14, was given permanent employment after having completed a month's trial as a painter. His was the only income the family had. The 1939 register shows Effie at 17 Queen St with son Leslie George born 12 June 1924 died in Bath, Somerset on 10 Oct 2008, daughter Elizabeth Joy (known as Betty) born 17 March 1929 died 5 June 2018 Wisconsin, USA and John Kenneth born 14 Feb 1926 died 11 Jan 1994 Chester and Ellesmere Port, Cheshire. Effie's daughter Betty married Richard Elmer Halberstadt in Blaby on 15 Aug 1946 – he was a paratrooper in the US army, enlisting 9 Dec 1942, and was from Racine, Wisconsin, and born 15 Jan 1923. His family had a beer distribution business in Racine, and he was a beer salesman. Betty was 5'3" tall, with blonde hair and blue eyes, and only 17 when she married. She had children Lesley, John and Joy and Richard died on 11 April 2008. In 1948, Effie went to USA to stay with daughter Betty and Richard Halberstadt, at Spring St, Racine. She left on Queen Elizabeth on 22 April 1948, arriving on 24 April 1948 and returning in August 1948. Her record shows her to have been 5'3", fresh complexion, blue eyes, grey hair. Effie went again, via New York, to Racine in 1952. She went again to New York by plane in 1954 and also in 1957. Effie married Frederick Smith in 1960 and moved to live at 29 Ewell Road, Wollaton. She died at St Martin's Hospital, in Bath, Somerset on 31 March 1965. Her executor was her son Leslie George



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Towers, men's outfitter, who also lived in Bath. Richard Halberstadt died on 11 April 2008 in Racine, Wisconsin. Betty nee Towers died 5 June 2018 and was mourned by her children Joy Lippman, John Halberstadt and Lesley Zoromski

Sarah Jane Walton married Ernest Brooks, a railway signalman, in 1922. The family stayed in the Coalville area, living at 133 Bardon Road and had 2 daughters and a son – Sylvia, Margaret and Raymond. Sarah Jane died 24 April 1961, her husband having died in 1954.

Edward Walton - By 1911 Edward was a horse driver at Whitwick Colliery and joined the army and married Ethel Maud(e) Gamble in Blaby on 1 September 1917. Ethel was 22 and a shoe machinist. The couple next appear in Southport, Merseyside in 1939 at 56 Brook Street. Edward is a lorry driver, and Ethel is at home. The couple had 4 daughters (Violet, Mabel, Ethel Margaret and Ivy Charlotte) and 4 sons (George Edward, Eric Frederick, Reginald and Cyril), and birth registers indicate all these were born in Blaby, but strangely none of the family appear on the 1921 census. Given that they have children with the names of Violet (after Edward's sister) George Edward (after Edward's father) and Ivy Charlotte (Charlotte after Edward's mother), we are sure that this is the correct family. Baptism records for Violet, Mabel and George Edward show that in 1918 they were living in Little Glen, an older name for what is now Glen Parva, and had moved by 1919 to Whetstone Road, Blaby where according to electoral registers they stayed until at least 1931. Edward was a labourer, and became a postman in 1921 although he does not appear in post office employment records. Edward died in Southport in 1954 and Ethel in 1975.

- **April 1991** – Lynne Goulbourne started as manager at the **community centre**, having previously worked at Burleigh College in Loughborough.
- **Dec 1991** – Thringstone and Whitwick were about to launch a new **Rainbows brownie** group. Leader Elaine Elton said she had already heard of some girls who were interested.
- **March 1992** – Thringstone's **Christine Waterfield** won £23,195 at a bingo game at the Casino Club in Coalville. Christine split the money with her friend Mary Siddon. The two women have been going to the bingo club for 10 years and won small amounts, but never as much as this.
- **March 1992** – **Thringstone Football Club** is getting £1000 towards an £8000 target to put in flood lighting at their ground. The club currently has 120 members and hopes to raise the remaining money from fund raising activities.
- **July 1992** – Budding Thringstone musician, **Darren Edwards**, managed to get himself onto a recording of The Darling Buds of May after the TV company making the programme wanted a skiffle band to take part in one shot. Darren is currently studying music at Leeds University, and plays in a band, so jumped at the chance to be part of the show. Darren enjoyed being part of the filming, but has his heart set on being a professional musician.
- **Sept 1992** – **Frank and June Ray** of Thringstone raised £600 when asking for people to give to Leukaemia Research instead of flowers following the death of their son Ashleigh and his girlfriend in a car accident. They have been supporting the cause for the last 4 years since their adopted son Simon died of the disease. Ashleigh and his girlfriend Beverley Hill were killed when their Ford Sierra was in collision with a Honda Accord whilst coming round the bend towards Thringstone from Shepshed on the A512 at Gracedieu. The driver of the Honda and his 3 passengers were taken to hospital but later released.
- **Sept 1993** – David Bell, owner of **The Meadows Nursing Home** in Thringstone was in court charged with dumping a large number of hypodermic needles, syringes and other clinical waste at a public waste site in Shepshed. He was fined £200. He said he was on holiday at the time of the offence and had no knowledge of how these things came to be dumped there.
- **Sept 1993** – Whitwick Quarry had offered to supply materials to **Thringstone Community Centre** in order to improve the car park area. Thringstone scouts had levelled out a bump in the car park in readiness for the work to be done, and John Brown had fitted a disabled ramp.

Next meeting 5 Jan at 7pm at Charles Booth Centre